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395 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
860.585.5000

CHC of Clinton

114 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413
860.664.0787

CHC of Danbury

8 Delay Street
Danbury, CT 06810
203.797.8330

CHC of Enfield

5 North Main Street
Enfield, CT 06082
860.253.9024

CHC of Groton

481 Gold Star Highway
Groton, CT 06340
860.446.8858

CHC of Meriden

134 State Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203.237.2229

CHC of Middletown

675 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860.347.6971

CHC of New Britain

85 Lafayette Street
New Britain, CT 06051
860.224.3642

CHC of New London

One Shaw's Cove
New London, CT 06320
860.447.8304

CHC of Old Saybrook

263 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860.388.4433

CHC of Waterbury

51 North Elm Street
Waterbury, CT 06702
203.574.4000

Day Street CHC

49 Day Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
203.854.9292

Franklin Street CHC

141 Franklin Street
Stamford, CT 06901
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Jane: Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana, and Members of the Public Health Committee, good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you. I am Jane Hylan, Director of School Based Health Services for the Community Health Center, Inc. and I am joined by Melanie Wilde and Janet Manthey, both Program Managers overseeing the operations of several SBHCs throughout CT. I am here today to testify on Bill SB 848, which proposes to repeal funding of more than twenty SBHCs in Alliance Districts for this fiscal year. CHC is providing care in over 170 community and school locations and specifically to over 10,000 student/patients in the last school year.

I am sure you have all heard how SBHCs better the lives of students and families who are fortunate enough to have one available. Not only do our programs provide better access to medical, behavioral health and dental care, but we are continuously providing preventive services such as risk assessments, counseling and health education. Providers enable students to adopt healthy behaviors, potentially improve their quality of life and decrease children's risk for developing chronic disease later in life. SBHCs meet the needs of students who otherwise would go without essential healthcare – nowhere are these services more necessary than in our school districts with the highest needs – Alliance Districts. Melanie and Janet will share some details of their work within SBHCs that are located in Alliance Districts.

Melanie: Good afternoon, I am Melanie Wilde.

Meriden is one of the CT school districts identified as an Alliance District. CHCI is applying for funds to expand school based health services in Meriden and plan on submitting a completed application for this coming Monday. If awarded, this grant funding will assist in bringing medical services in Lincoln Middle School, home to over 750 students in the Meriden community. The school nurse sees approximately 500-600 students a month and 10% of those visits the school nursing staff cannot diagnosis or treat and subsequently those students are sent home – unlike a school based provider who is equipped to diagnosis, treat and prescribe for acute and chronic injuries and illnesses. Reduction in funding will affect this community, because many of these students have limited access to medical services. With 14.9% of the population of Meriden living below the poverty level, as well as uninsured, underinsured and families unable to pay out of pocket access to care is reduced significantly. SBHC's offer services regardless of



economic or insurance status. Without the support of the SBHC's, students will either not receive the medical services needed and therefore return to school sick or worse miss days from school. Having SBHC's in the Alliance communities have reduced the number of days students are out of school, because of early diagnosis and treatment as well as decreased the number of ER visits made by families yearly due to sick visits.

Janet: Good Afternoon. I am Janet Manthey Program Manager of School Based Health Services for the Community Health Center,

In the last fiscal year, in response to the Governor's Education Reform Initiative, the Legislature allocated \$1.3 million dollars to fund a minimum of 20 new or expanded School Based Health Centers in the Alliance Districts. Just last month, a Request for Proposal was released through the Department of Public Health to fund these new or expanded Centers. Repealing this funding will affect students who have needs in many areas of their daily lives – and most importantly in their access to healthcare. A school based health center bridges resources and helps families access services they otherwise could go without. For example, East Windsor has a 9% unemployment rate and a high percentage of Husky enrolled children, all who have limited access to health care. Data shows that culturally diverse, communities such as East Windsor have high rates of obesity and diabetes. School based health centers could educate and monitor such individuals that would be prone to these diagnoses. Receiving services on school grounds removes transportation as a barrier to care. This bill proposes to cut funding to programs that serve families who already have limited access to good, quality healthcare. Families are struggling to meet their daily needs. Funding to SBHCs could bring these families to a breaking point. Families will be forced into our already inundated ER's to sit and wait for hours. Worse yet, parents may be forced to make the decision to not seek medical health care for their children. The end result is always increased financial burden on the state.

Thank you.